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### Child Safe Church

Here at the Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Wau-bra) we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. Our Safe Guarding Officers are Peter Marquand (SC) and Maree Roache (OLHC) and you can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**2019 Class Reunions:** Past students and staff of **Damascus College** and its foundation colleges: **Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines** are invited to celebrate the following reunions:

Class of 1969 Sunday 24 March 12.30pm

Class of 1979 Saturday 23 March 2pm

Class of 2009 Friday 22 March 6.30pm

Full details and booking information [www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events)



## Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Wau-bra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North **Phone:** 5331 1012

**Email:** ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Parish Web:** ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

**School Web:** www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

**Presbytery:** Phone 5332 4324

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

**Email:** wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Parish Web:** ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

**School Web:** www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

**School Phone:** 5339 4726

### 17th March 2019 ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent (C)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

**Parish Priest:** Fr Marcello Colasante

**Visiting Priests:** Fr Gary Jones

Fr Anthony Nagothu

Fr Sajan Mathew

**Staff at St Columba's**

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Wed—Friday 9.00am -1.00pm

**Staff at Wendouree**

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache

Wed- Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

**Safeguarding Officers:**

St Columba's: Peter Marquand

OLHC: Maree Roache

**Mass times: St Columba's**

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 9:30 am

**Mass times: Wendouree**

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston

Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11.  
R. v.8

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

Lk 13:1-9



Last week, the wilderness was a character in the gospel reading. This week, we find a mountain and a cloud featuring in the narrative. These other-than-human characters and the prophets of old (Moses and Elijah) link Luke's story of Jesus to the Israelites' covenant relationship with God. Wilderness, mountain and cloud also remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery where human and other-than-human Earth beings are transformed through encounter with the divine. The current ABC series The Magical Land of Oz is yet another reminder of this

For Jesus, the mountain is already a place of encounter with God, a place of prayer. Luke has Jesus spending a night in prayer on an unidentified mountain before he chooses the Twelve. Jesus now takes three of his closest friends up another unidentified mountain where the aspect of his face changes and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, "appear" and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet.

This episode seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with this realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain. The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus and calls for a response: "Listen to him". These words are reminiscent of Moses' instruction to the Israelites: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet" (Deut 18:15).

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of glory. We also need the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to hear the prophet-like-Moses in our times, we have to come to terms with the personal costs involved. Some of us actually need to go alone or together to a mountain top or place of extraordinary beauty to discover again the strength that comes from encountering the divine. I grew up in the shadow of Mt Macedon. I once climbed within view of Everest. Every now and then, I climb Mt Buninyong. At such times, I know the wonder of God revealed in the beauty of the earth itself even as I sense its fragility and susceptibility to destruction.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is my light and my salvation

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:**

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Elizabeth Smith, Sr. Mary Lynch, Bryan Deady,

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, Pat Hogan, and for those on the RCIA & RCIC journey for 2019.

**Stewardship Program 2019** March 17, 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." (Genesis 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing equally in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

**Mass of the Oils Monday, April 15, 2019** The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, April 15, 2019. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2019 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include ushers, readers, oils bearers, presentation of the gifts, collection of oils, musicians and singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au) If you can assist at the Mass of the Oils as a reader, singer or musician or collector of oils please contact your Parish office.

**Stations of the Cross** will be offered on Fridays during Lent starting on Friday 15th March at 6.30pm in St Columba's Church. This will be followed by a time of reflection and sharing on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. All welcome to join in this wonderful preparation for Easter. For further info please contact Judith on 5331 1012



**Exodus Community Donations** The leadership team of Exodus are now able to receive donations of food to support their community. Please support this very worthwhile project.

**Can you help?** The St Columba's Liturgy committee needs help over the Easter Triduum in setting up etc. Contact Judith if you can help. Thank you.

**Project Compassion 2nd Sunday of Lent** Tati lives in the remote forest of Indonesia. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation. Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family. Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty, and give them hope to protect our common home. Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413



**Catholic Women's League Ballarat** Lenten Retreat at Nazareth House Chapel on 18, 19 and 20 March, presented by Fr Thomas Casanova CCS. Cost \$65 for 3 days including a 2 course lunch or \$25 per day including a 2 course lunch. Entry by donation if not having lunch. Monday 18th - Mass 10.30am. Tuesday 19th - Mass 9am, Wednesday Mass - 9am. Each day will conclude at 6pm. RSVP to Co-ordinator - Joan on 53 382 484 -

**Rosters for Holy Week St Columba's** will be in the foyer from this weekend. Readers please take readings from the back of the clipboard. Palm Sunday Passion copy is only for the Narrator. Further rosters will begin after Easter please contact Judith for any changes. Thank you

**Grief to Grace Program - Spiritual and Psychological Healing from Abuse** Since 2005, the international program Grief to Grace has been assisting people wounded by abuse - whether clergy, spiritual, sexual, physical, domestic, spousal, or emotional abuse - to restore their dignity and their relationship with a loving God. Grief to Grace will be available on Sunday, July 14, 2019 at Safety Bay, WA. For more information [www.rachelsvineyardministriesperth.wordpress.com](http://www.rachelsvineyardministriesperth.wordpress.com) or the international website [www.grief-to-grace-lsi.squarespace.com](http://www.grief-to-grace-lsi.squarespace.com). (SMS/voicemail only) 0490 956 745. Email [g2gperthwa@gmail.com](mailto:g2gperthwa@gmail.com), phone

**Sacramental preparation** we will begin preparation for children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Term Two. If your child wishes to be enrolled in the program, please contact Judith or Maree.

**OLHC Singing Practice for Easter** This Thursday 21st March at 7pm. at the Church. If you are a singer or just like to sing please come along and join us.

**Developing Parents' Digital Literacy and Tackling Cyberbullying** Damascus College presents this free community workshop discussing the strengths and challenges of navigating the online world as a young person. Learn about major social media platforms and the issue of cyberbullying, plus how you can use to support young people online. This session allows for an open Q&A at the end. Wed, May 1, 2019 from 7.30pm at the John Shannon Centre. Flyer in foyer. [www.damascus.vic.edu.au](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au).

**Plenary Council** The Listening and Dialogue phase is over. What happens now? The National Centre for Pastoral Research will continue the deep listening process, conducting a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the submissions received and, using best-practice research methods, will identify key themes that have emerged. In May the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, the Plenary Council Executive Committee and the Facilitation Team will work together with the National Centre for Pastoral Research to finalise the National Themes for Discernment. Those themes will become the focus for the *Listening and Discernment* phase, which will begin from June 9, and will be the foundations for the Plenary Council agenda. More information about phase will be available shortly.

**Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools.** Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and application form.



**Fr Frank Smith** celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Saturday 16th March. Congratulation and thank-you to Fr Frank for the contribution he has made to the Exodus community. **2019 Celtic Winter Wonderland Tour of Ireland** Nov 27th—Dec 11th, 2019. Flyer with tour details is in the foyer of each church.

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 608.95		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,138.25	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,711.26

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 505	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 107
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 2,486	Weekly Average	\$ 1497

SC 23rd/24th March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	Liturgy tips	OLHC 23/24th March	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
<b>WELCOMER</b>	Jan Mullaly	Alison Thorpe	Liturgy is a privileged place of encounter between God and the people of God. It is a sacred encounter through participation in a communal, ritual expression. Liturgy is more than words. Liturgy is a dialogue. A dialogue between God and the people of God. We are transformed by what we do in liturgy, as what we do teaches us what we believe – and what we believe is expressed in the ritual doing of the liturgy. "... Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations"  SC # 7 Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium  <b>Coming Up:</b> St Columba's Men's Group next gathering will be Thursday 28th March at 2pm. More info to follow.	<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Corrie Harbour	Paul Hogan	Sun 17th St Patrick's Day
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Trish Simmons	Pat Kenna		<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Bill Jones	Marie McMillan	Wed 20th PPC Meeting at 7:00 pm
<b>FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Kate Lawry	Anne Rossiter		<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Judith Potter, Sue Searls, Margaret White + 2 volunteers	Thurs 21st Mass at Kelaston at 11 am.
<b>SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Jim Kierce	Bruce Chapman		<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Tony & Pauline Newman	Joyce Jackson	<b>Next Week:</b>
<b>GIFTS</b>	Margaret R & Anne Caine	Maureen & Hans		<b>COUNTERS</b>	Kath Leonard & Kaye Stringer		
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Jennifer Adams, Jan Mullaly, Annette Madigan	Judith O'Sullivan, Carole Barr, Anthea Hinchey		<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	<b>Waubra</b>	<b>Learmonth</b>	
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	Volunteer	Harry	<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Julia Cini	Tony McDonald		
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Maree	Maureen	<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Tony McDonald	Bev Hayward		
				<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Anne Dalton	Bev Hayward	